

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see from PCT/ISA/210 (page 2)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/DE2004/002249

International filing date (day/month/year)
10/11/2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
10/10/2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H02K5/22, H02K5/24, H01R13/627

Applicant

ROBERT BOSCH GMBH

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
European Patent Office Munich

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/DE2004/002249

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/DE2004/002249

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	6-10,	YES
	Claims	1-5,11	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	6-10	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations:

see supplementary page

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET)

International file number

PCT/DE2004/002249

Re Point V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1:** EP-A-1 107 432 (VALEO CLIMATISATION), June 13, 2001
(2001-06-13)
- D2:** US-A 4,690,366 (LOUP ET AL), September 1, 1987
(1987-09-01)
- D3:** PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Vol. 006, No. 060 (E-102), April 17, 1982 (1982-04-17) & JP 57 003548 A (HITACHI LTD), January 9, 1982 (1982-01-09)

2. **Independent Claim 1**

The present invention does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the object of Claim 1 is not novel as defined by Article 33(2) PCT.

2.1 Document **D1** describes (the references in parentheses refer to this document):

an electric motor (Figure 1: 14), in particular a fan motor for an air conditioning fan of a motor vehicle (title and abstract), including a retaining housing (abstract and Figure 1: 10) serving as a motor housing having a retaining opening (see Figure 1: housing is open from the top for accommodating electric motor 14) into which the electric motor (Figure 1: 14) at least partially extends; as well as including connection elements (Figure 6: cables and contacts of plug connector

60) for supplying power to the electric motor; and attachment means for the electrical connection elements (housing of plug connector 60), the attachment for the electrical connection elements being provided on the electric motor (column 6, line 58 to column 7, line 14; the plug connector attaches the contacts directly to a socket 62 which is provided on actual housing 12 of motor 14).

- 2.2 In the sense of the remarks under 2.1, the disclosure of document **D2** is also prejudicial to the novelty of the object of the current Claim 1, since the plug housing of a plug for supplying power to the electric motor accommodated in a housing can itself be construed as being attachment means for the contacts on the electric motor (**D2**, Figure 1: electric motor 12, housing 26 and plug 42).

3. Dependent claims

Dependent Claims 2 through 11 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the PCT requirements with regard to novelty or inventive step.

- 3.1 Document **D1** also describes the decoupling of the plug attachment from the outer housing according to the present Claim 2 (see **D1**, column 7, lines 6-14).

A receptacle provided on the electric motor is also shown in **D1** (see **D1**, Figure 6, reference 62), in particular on a housing part serving as a bearing support (see **D2** [**sic**; **D1**], column 2, lines 36-41) of the motor, so that the object of Claims 3 through 5 is also not novel. Finally, **D1** also relates to an electric motor for a fan, so that the object of Claim 11 is also not novel.

3.2 The features according to the current Claims 3 through 5 and 11 are also disclosed by document **D2**; see abstract, Figure 1 and corresponding description, column 3, lines 2-12.

3.3 Document **D1** is viewed as being the most proximate art with respect to the object of Claims 4 and 6 through 10 (see discussion under Point 2.1).

The object of Claims 4 and 6 through 10 therefore differ from the known electric motor according to **D1** in that the plug is latched to the electric motor (Claims 6 through 9), in particular to a bearing support (Claims 4 and 10)

The object of the present invention can therefore be viewed as being that the plug is secured to prevent detachment from the motor.

The object proposed in Claims 4 and 6 through 10 of the present application cannot be viewed as being based on an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT), since Document **D3** describes the same advantages as the present application with regard to the features of these dependent claims (see **D3**, abstract). Those skilled in the art would therefore view the inclusion of this feature in the electric motor having an external housing described in **D1** as being a common design feature for achieving the proposed object. The object of Claims 4 and 6 through 10 is therefore not based on an inventive step in relation to **D1**.